

Scott of the Antarctic misses his hat-trick!

IN conditions better suited to the Winter Olympics, Wycombe Wanderers slipped and slithered their way to victory in their friendly against Abingdon Town at Loakes Park on Tuesday night, writes **MICHAEL KNOX**.

With two inches of snow on the pitch and more falling from a leaden sky, this match would not normally have been played. The ground resembled a Christmas card setting, where snow-balling would have been a more appropriate sport.

But Abingdon, having

struggled across country in the blizzard, arrived wanting a game and Wycombe, as obliging hosts, readily agreed. The players, adapting to the conditions, showed that football of a sort was still feasible.

With Chris Way injured and Gary Lester skiing in Austria (he could have saved money by staying in Wycombe), Wanderers took the opportunity to try out youngster John Clarke in goal.

Sixteen-year-old Clarke, a pupil at the RGS and regular Broomwades goalkeeper, was called into ac-

tion regularly early on as the Hellenic League visitors, apparently ignored the awkward conditions and settled down to play some fine football.

Suspicion

Twice Clarke had to bring off diving saves from forwards Pete Selway and Dave Woods, while only a dramatic goal-line clearance by George Borg prevented Steve Long (the Abingdon one) putting his side ahead.

At this stage Wycombe players were treating the pitch with utmost suspicion

— with some justification. But having seen Abingdon make light of the conditions, they then followed suit.

No player looked happier on the pitch than Terry Scott, whose balance and control enabled him to score two goals in three minutes.

First, after avoiding the offside trap, he took the ball round the 'keeper to score, and then he netted the rebound after Paul Birdseye's shot had been dropped by the goalkeeper.

Abingdon pulled a goal back just before half-time, when Mickey Long's cross exposed Clarke's limitations in the air and Steve Long (the Abingdon one again) headed in.

During the second half the visitors, who were being watched by Amersham Town their quarter-final opponents in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, made five substitutions. Wanderers limited themselves to bringing on Terry Glynn for Jim Jacobs, who strangely had started the match wearing a number 12 shirt. It was one of those nights!

Ken Wilson made it 3-1 in the 70th minute when intercepting a back-pass, not the wisest tactic in the conditions.

Rebound

The main interest centred around whether Scott of the Antarctic could get his hat-trick. His chance appeared to have come in the 86th minute when he broke clear of the defence.

However his shot struck a post and it was left to Steve Long (the Wycombe one) to put home the rebound and complete the scoring.

Unlike some polar expeditions all participants returned home unscathed, with Wycombe having accomplished a successful mission.

WYCOMBE: J. Clarke, P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, K. Mead, R. Dell, K. Wilson, J. Jacobs (sub T. Glynn 71 mins), S. Long, T. Scott, H. Kennedy.

ABINGDON TOWN: M. King (sub F. Stephens 45 mins), A. Whaddock, P. Lansbury, N. Hendy, N. Cattel, P. Selway (A. Titcombe 69 mins), D. Woods, P. Storey (sub S. Evans 45 mins), M. Long, R. King (sub P. Taylor 69 mins), S. Long (sub N. Lawman 69 mins).

Half-time: 2-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe - Scott (29 mins, 31), Wilson (70), Long (86); Abingdon - S. Long (40).

Wycombe 4, Abingdon Town 1

Ashby helps make it seven wins in a row

Chertsey Town 0, Wycombe Reserves 2

WYCOMBE Reserves moved to within a point of second placed Staines Town when they recorded their seventh straight win in the suburban league North division with a 4-0 scoreline at Chertsey Reserves.

The fine team performance was rounded off with a penalty save by young Tony Ashby, playing his second match for the re-

serves following an injury to Chris Way. Tim Lee brought a Chertsey player down in the box, and from the resulting penalty Ashby dived to his right to hold on to the ball.

Wycombe were in control from the start with Mark Richardson shooting over the bar and Phil Bycroft and Nick Shrimpton firing wildly. Andy Hunt eventually opened the scoring and then he picked up a long Simon Dexter clearance and lobbed the ball into an empty net for his second.

With his sights on a hat-

trick Hunt hit the bar, and the rebound was put away by Anton Vircaus on his debut. He is the reserves' 40th signing of the season.

In the 58th minute the Chertsey centre back was given his marching orders for swearing at the referee, and nine minutes from time the scoring was completed by Ken Wilson, before 15 year old Ashby saved the penalty.

WYCOMBE: T. Ashby, S. Dexter, T. Lee, P. Bycroft, A. Vircaus, P. West, B. Dell, M. Richardson (sub K. Stansbridge 79 mins), A. Hunt, K. Wilson, N. Shrimpton (sub R. Clarke 79 mins).

SUBURBAN LEAGUE NORTH DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harrow	19	15	3	1	62	20	33
Staines	19	12	2	5	51	14	26
Slough	18	11	4	3	48	12	26
Wycombe	19	11	3	5	45	22	25
Farnborough	18	10	5	3	43	24	25
Hounslow	18	10	5	3	33	20	25
Hillingdon	20	10	3	7	40	28	23
Wealdstone	18	10	2	6	36	23	22
Wembley	19	8	5	6	36	29	21
Feltham	19	9	3	7	31	30	21
Chertsey	20	9	2	9	33	54	20
Egham	22	4	6	12	31	52	14
Fleet	22	5	3	14	29	57	13
Southall	20	3	5	12	17	44	11
Addlestone	17	3	3	11	17	22	9
Camberley	19	3	2	14	19	56	8
Corinthian	15	0	0	15	1	65	0

Wycombe Reserves will be going for their eighth win in a row when they entertain Camberley at Loakes Park tomorrow. With several players fighting to regain their first team places, there should be plenty for spectators to watch.

Schools aim for last eight

HIGH Wycombe Schools under 15s attempt to reach the last eight of the prestigious English Schools Trophy on Monday when they entertain Redbridge at Loakes Park, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Wycombe, drawn at home in every round, have won their four previous matches with something to spare, scoring 22 goals and conceding just the one.

Mark West (10) and Raymond Jack (7) have scored the bulk of the goals, while goalkeeper Tony Ashby, who saved a penalty for Wycombe Reserves on Saturday, has been little troubled.

Redbridge, who beat Bromley in the previous round, will provide a sterner test, but Wycombe on their home ground should go through to the next round.